REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is presented in order to add new claims 23-32 which correspond to some of the previously cancelled multiple dependencies cancelled by way of the Preliminary Amendment submitted on March 22, 2006.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to initial examination is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the status identifier for claim 13 is indicated in the present Amendment as "(Original)". This is correct because, although the Preliminary Amendment filed March 22, 2006 indicated the status indentifier as "(Currently Amended)", claim 13 was <u>not</u> in fact amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed March 22, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Haruhiko KOTO et al.

By: an usella Charles R. Watts

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